

LUNCH AND LEARN GANG: USACE Water Management Operations in the Cumberland River Basin: An Overview

January 8, 12 -1 p.m.

Region II Conference Room

As I write this article, it is pouring rain outside and no one's complaining because it is bringing welcome relief from a very dry year here in Middle Tennessee. This rain water will flow into creeks and streams, into wetlands, rivers and lakes, as well as soak into the ground to become groundwater. Plants and terrestrial and aquatic life will be nourished and humans will have more of this most valuable resource to use for their needs as well.

During all seasons of the year, in times of normal rainfall and floods and drought, comprehensive water management in the Cumberland River system is carried out by the Nashville District Corps of Engineers. This District geographically encompasses more than 59,000 square miles and includes parts of seven states.

How the Nashville District meets the challenges of managing this huge watershed, including investigating, developing and maintaining the water and related environmental resources, will be the topic of our next Lunch and Learn Gang meeting. Richard Tippit, Biologist with the Water Management Section of the Nashville District, US Army Corps of Engineers, will talk about several areas of their water management mission. He'll tell us how the Nashville District and its team members, for more than 118 years, have worked to tame rivers, protect citizens and property, provide services and recreation and to be there if disaster strikes.

The Nashville District has regulatory, flood control, navigation, hydropower and recreational responsibility for the Cumberland River watershed. It also has regulatory and navigation responsibility for most of the Tennessee River watershed. To carry out these responsibilities, it takes a staff of engineers, project managers, biologists, geologists, hydrologists, natural resource managers and other professionals.

Some topics to be covered include a look at District reservoir projects, water quality concerns, environmental restoration efforts, effects of dam repair, and drought impacts.

The Cumberland River watershed is a great place to live and work. Join us to hear how the Nashville District of the Corps of Engineers helps keep it this way.

Hosted by the I&E Department and held on the first Thursday of each month, except July, Lunch and Learn Gang presentations are about natural resource related topics and last about 30-45 minutes, allowing time for discussion during the allotted lunch hour. If you would like to make a presentation, if you have topics of personal interest you would like us to address, or if you know someone

who offers an interesting program, contact Patricia Miller at (615) 781-5276 or by e-mail: Patricia.Miller@state.tn.us.